

Japan Christian Activity News

IN THIS ISSUE:

No. 385 - March 26, 1971

- Immigration Bill
- Uoki becomes YWCA General Secretary
- FCM Conference
- BYF Convention
- Kyodan Missionary Conference
- Reformed Theological Study Conference
- Tokyo Mayoral Election
- Bible Publishing Events
- Hoshibus Personnel
- Campuses
- Sophia Anti-Pollution Course
- Swiss Work Camp Opportunity
- NCC Protest on Immigration Bill
- Review of Asia and Japan in the Seventies



IMMIGRATION BILL INTRODUCED DESPITE OPPOSITION

On March 18, the Liberal Democratic Party introduced into the House of Representatives the controversial bill to establish a new Immigration Law covering aliens. The Committee on House Management must now decide how the bill will be presented. If opposition parties request it, the bill must be presented at and explained in a session of the Diet.

The Minister of Justice has expressed his hope that the bill will be passed by this session of the Diet, which runs into May, with a short recess for elections in April. The Prime Minister is also said to have expressed support for the bill. However, there is considerable opposition, within the Liberal Democratic Party as well as in opposition parties and from a mixture of groups outside the political scene.

The NCC has issued a statement which it is sending to members of the Diet, the press and to church leaders in Japan. A copy of it is on page 5 and extra copies, in Japanese or English, are available upon request.

A Resolution with regard to the bill is also being submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in the name of the Committee to Protect Human Rights of Foreigners, over the name of Rev. Katsuo Seno, chairman, Osaka. The Osaka statement emerges from monthly study meetings. (A copy is being sent to Japan readers of the JCAN and is available to others upon request.) A group, composed of Christian doctors, young Korean Christians, Japanese church young people and Korean youth has been meeting in Kyoto, as the Kyoto Anti-Immigration Bill Renmei.

The text of the bill has only recently become available, and is now being studied very closely by legal authorities, persons concerned with various groups of foreigners, and persons involved in movements to establish and protect human rights, while public meetings are being conducted in Tokyo and the Kansai.

UOKI BECOMES YWCA GENERAL SECRETARY

Miss Asa Uoki will become the general secretary of the Japan YWCA effective April 1, replacing Rev. Mari Imai. Miss Uoki was with the Osaka YWCA before coming to the National YWCA offices in Tokyo in 1961 as student secretary.

In accord with decision made at the November Convention, from April the National YWCA will not have a schools' section or secretaries of student work. Local activities will continue in some schools, and the National YWCA will be continuing to study its future relationship to student work.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

John M Nakajima, Helen Post, Stan Manierre

Subscription rates : Japan ¥1,000 OVERSEAS Airmail \$5.50 Seasmall \$3.50 SINGLE COPY \$3.00

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL Japan Christian Center, 551 Totsuka-machi 1-chome, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160 Japan

"CELEBRATE LIFE" AT FCM JULY CONFERENCE...Invitation from Margaret Taylor

In spite of living in a world of individuals at war without and within, we Christians serving as missionaries in Japan can and do plan to gather next July in conference to join our forces in "Celebrating Life!"

Every missionary, and high school and college family members as well are invited by the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries to meet us at Shigisan-so, an inexpensive (but air conditioned) kokumin shukusha (citizens' lodge) in gorgeous country near Nara.

The following leaders have consented to stimulate our thinking in their fields of expertise: Oliver Statler, literature; Ken Dale, Bible study; Bob Fukada, Christian social service; Jim Satterwhite, medicine, and others.

Mary Braun will initiate a discussion on "How a Missionary Husband Can Help His Wife." Stan Manierre is host at an evening termed, "Getting to Know You." Service projects at institutions and churches in the area are planned. When a large group of Christians gather in thankfulness and celebration, things happen!

We believe this conference will make a difference in your life and in your ministry in Japan. The dates are: July 21-23 at Shigisan-so, with rates as low as we could get them; room and meals ¥3,500, and conference fee ¥500. Parking facilities available. Make your plans now to be there--"Celebrating Life!"

NEW LIGHT THROUGH DIALOGUE

Solidarity through dialogue is the aim of the Baptist Youth Fellowship convention to be held March 27-29 at the Kenshu Center of the YMCA, Rokko, Kobe.

Prof. Masayuki Nobeji, College of Education, Doshisha University, will be the key note speaker on the theme, "New Light through Dialogue." The program is aimed particularly at high school and college students.

"RELATIONSHIP" FOCUS OF KYODAN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

Several hundred missionaries related to The United Church of Christ in Japan and to Christian schools and social work will hold their annual spring conference in Tozanso, Gotemba, from March 30 through April 1.

The program, organized around a series of simultaneous tracks, will offer various speakers and discussions on the missionary and his kyoku and local church, the missionary and his school, and current issues in Japan. A fourth track will be unscheduled. Weaving in and out of the tracks will be ornithological expeditions at dawn, singing with Jan Landes, a display of his works by Issaku Tomura, sculptor.

For the first time, along with staff members of the Kyodan, Kyodan district moderators are being invited to participate in the full conference. Supplementing Kyodan-related missionaries will be missionary representatives from other Asian countries and non-Kyodan related missionaries in Japan, to whom the Conference is always open.

May 11-13 - REFORMED THEOLOGICAL STUDY CONFERENCE -- Oiso Academy House

Theme: "Confessing the Faith: in History and Today"

Contact John Hesselink, 29-3 Higashi-cho, 5-chome, Koganei-shi, Tokyo 184
(0423-81-9655)

ORANGE-AND-GREEN CHALLENGES BLUE-AND-WHITE

Among the various mayoral elections to be held April 11, the campaign in the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo attracts the widest attention. It has been called "the second war between conservatives and the progressives." Four years ago the firm fortress of the conservatives was defeated by Ryokichi Minobe (of the white-centered blue circle). This time, the issue is whether he can maintain control in the face of the challenge from LDP candidate Akira Hatano (of the orange and green), who served as Tokyo police chief and once called this election Showa genroku inakashibai (rural theatrical performance in prosperous Showa era).

While opinion polls show Minobe having a slight lead, Hatano's last spurt appeared to be undertaken with such spirit that the battle will apparently become more and more fierce as election day dawns.

As for the opinion among Christians, during the last election, it was clearly divided into two groups, because at that time Minobe's rival was Masatoshi Matsushita, the then president of St. Paul's University. However, this time it is predicted that most Christians will support Minobe. Men like Michio Kozaki and Tomio Muto, who supported Matsushita last time, have become supporters of "The Assembly of Christians to Create a Bright, Progressive Municipal Policy." The Assembly on March 15 discussed what concrete action to take.

by Rev. Yoshikiyo Ito

BIBLE PUBLISHING EVENTS

Two Bible publishing events have recently drawn wide attention. One is publication in February of 'Shinseisho Daijiten' (The New Dictionary of the Bible), edited by the Kirisuto Shimbun. The selling price is ¥20,000. The first print run is 7,500 copies.

The dictionary is the product of the work of Prof. Kaichi Baba and more than 100 specialists over a period of four years. Thirty years ago, Prof. Baba edited the first dictionary of the Bible in Japanese.

The second notable publishing event is an illustrated edition of the Bible published by the Japan Bible Society in March. Thirty-two water color prints by Ryohei Koiso, a noted oil painter belonging to the Shin Seisaku association, and a member of the Kyodan Kobe Church, are inserted throughout the colloquial edition.

PERSONNEL AT HOSHIKU

Rev. Kentaro Buma, executive director of the Division of Service of the National Christian Council, leaves Japan March 27 to assume responsibilities for a three-year term as Asia Secretary of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of WCC. During Buma's absence, Hajime Ogawa, director of Agape Factory for the Disabled, will serve as acting executive director, with responsibility being shared by Rev. Toshihiro Takami of the Southeast Asia Leaders' Training Course at Tsurukawa as associate director.

TITLED: Eyes and Hands: The Discovery of Humanity / The Committee for the Christian Pavilion at Expo '70, Osaka, Japan has published an attractive book, in English and Japanese, summarizing the Pavilion Story, from the original projection of the idea, in 1967, to the closing words of appreciation. Available from Enderle Book Stores, Tokyo & Osaka. ¥400.

CAMPUSES

Meiji Gakuin. Five students were arrested March 17 when some 30 students, helmeted and masked, climbed over a high fence erected around the campus and invaded classrooms where final examinations were being given. Plain clothesmen and riot police called in soon restored order. Five students were arrested, only one of whom was a Meiji Gakuin student. Three were students of another college, one is a Meiji Gakuin graduate.

A progressive professor, speaking for a majority of the faculty, said, "The students doing this are no longer a politically minded group with their own thought for us to grapple with. We don't know their motives; They are just a bunch of troublemakers, interested only in making trouble. They don't number more than 30 or 40." In an earlier roughing up of professors, the students had claimed to be fighting an increase in entrance fees.

Aoyama Gakuin. The two former Tokyo Union Theological Seminary students whose applications were not accepted have appealed to the courts on the basis that their basic human rights, guaranteed in the Constitution, are being violated by their not being allowed to enter Aoyama Gakuin after having passed the entrance examinations. A supporters' association for the students has been organized.

At graduation ceremonies held Sat., March 20, helmeted students entered and assembled on the stage but they left eventually, being escorted out forcibly by graduating students seated in the front rows.

SOPHIA STUDENTS TO STUDY ANTI-POLLUTION

A new course on "anti-pollution" is being offered by Sophia University beginning April. It will be a one-year Liberal arts subject, open to all Sophia students. This is the first attempt to attack the pollution problem in a university as an inter-disciplinary subject, according to the report in the Feb. 26 issue of Tosei News. Seventeen professors, from the faculties of Literature, Economics, Law, Science and Engineering will collaborate in the venture. The plan was made possible by the new Ministry of Education decree allowing universities to have interdisciplinary courses.

The intention is to study pollution problems not only in their technological aspects, but also from the sociological and philosophical points of view. The course has been divided into two sections; namely, Pollution and City-Planning. Topics to be taken up are:

Pollution: national environment, industrial pollution, power-plant pollution, social welfare, economic growth, reporting pollution, man and society

City planning: the automobile, social work, post-industrial society, city and law, city engineering, city and literature.

SWISS WORK CAMP OPPORTUNITY

Japan Church World Service announces plans to send a team of 15 college students and working youth to Europe for five weeks this summer. Departing on July 5, the group, under the leadership of Miss Mizuho Matsuda, will spend a day in Bangkok on its way to Zurich, Switzerland. A two-week workcamp experience in an international program sponsored by a private Swiss agency will be followed by two weeks of travel in Italy, France and Germany. After two days in Vienna, the group will go by train to Moscow, where they will spend a day before proceeding across Russia by plane and train to Nakhodka, returning to Yokohama by ship by August 10. Interested persons should contact Japan Church World Service, Japan Christian Center (phone 03-202-0486) for cost and other details.

NCC ISSUES PROTEST OF ALIEN IMMIGRATION BILL

Since the 61st session of the National Diet three years ago, we have been raising objections to the revision of the "alien immigration bill" that was proposed at that time. This bill, in the name of simplifying and rationalizing the administration of alien immigration control in an age of mass transportation, neglects the basic human rights of the alien residents of Japan.

The government, however, is again proposing the "alien immigration bill," this time in a form that is even worse than the last bill in that the new bill includes the prohibition of all political activity by alien residents, including Koreans and Chinese (as defined in Law No. 126), who are victims of Japan's exploitative war, and the enforced deportation of all offenders.

Already strong opposition against the bill has been aroused not only among various groups in Japan but also in neighboring foreign countries.

We are supposed to have been operating under the so-called "Peace Constitution" since our defeat, but when we look back at the steps Japan has taken up to now, and when we think of its future course, if Japan is to avoid its past mistakes we cannot help but protest strongly against this proposed alien immigration bill and its neglect of the basic human rights.

The problematical points of the Bill are as follows:

1. The bill proposes that once again restrictions be established on the spheres of activity of alien residents by circumscribing very strictly their activities, locations and periods of stay.
2. By establishing a system for ordering the discontinuance of activities such as speech-making and other public expressions in opposition to the policies of the Japanese government, it restricts the freedom of speech and expression of alien residents.
3. It strengthens the power of the authorities to deport aliens by adding the violation to the foregoing order of discontinuance as one of the grounds on which deportation may be enforced.
4. Of special importance is the fact that in its denial of free speech and expression, the law applies the same system of cease and desist to those Korean residents and their children who lost their Japanese nationality on account of the San Francisco Treaty.
5. The bill closes de facto the door for any possible redemption by the court of offenders according to the above.

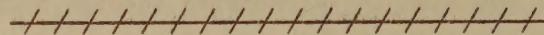
While we should humbly entreat forgiveness and reconciliation from our Asian neighbors, upon whom we imposed irreparable sacrifice and damage by our past deeds of exploitation, this immigration bill proposes to discriminate against and to silence those people, threatens the lives and living of aliens, and neglects their basic human rights. This means the basic human rights of the Japanese people are violated as well.

We appeal to every Japanese as well as to world opinion to establish basic human rights, abolish discrimination and bring about the realization of justice.

EXCERPTS FROM NAKAJIMA'S REVIEW OF "ASIA AND JAPAN IN THE SEVENTIES"

Asia and Japan in the Seventies by Yutaka Shishido has just been published by the Kyodan Board of Publication. Shishido is a Christian journalist who worked for Kyodo News Service for more than twenty-seven years, during which time he covered most of the world, including Peking. He is author of Jinmin senso ron (People's War) and Afurika no nashonarizumu no hatten (The Development of African nationalism). Shishido's 300-page book is divided into four chapters: "The struggle for permanent peace," "The great change in the sixties, "Asia in the seventies," and "Japan's direction in the seventies."

NCC General Secretary John Nakajima, feeling Shishido's analysis deserves attention among non-Japanese-reading people, has written a lengthy summary of it. Below is a condensation of his comments on Chapter 4 and references to the Confession of War Responsibility.



In chapter 4, the author discusses "Japan's direction in the seventies." Japan has grown to be an economically big nation. Its involvement in South East Asia is inevitable. Ahead lie two possible paths. One is the pathway of militarism to protect its economic interest.

According to Shishido, the United States is bound to withdraw entirely from the Asian scene. Many people in the countries of Asia, on the other hand, will of necessity become armed as people's regiments of their own countries in order to liberate their countries. In such cases, all Japanese investments may be destroyed or taken over by the liberation forces. Inasmuch as the United States will never return to the Asian bog, Japan must arm herself, possibly even with nuclear weapons, to protect the sources of her prosperity.

This Christian author, however, shows clearly what he thinks is a second, and more preferable, path for Japan. It is "the way of the peaceful big nation." Shishido quotes the ideals set forth by the Pierson Report for the United Nations. Rejecting Japan's present policy of using the term "aid" when she is actually pouring in her capital so as to enlarge her economic sphere of activity, Shishido agrees fully with the idea of "partnership in development" (in the Pierson Report) which he feels is best illustrated by Chou's eight principles on aid, characterized by such things as equalized mutual benefits, respect of sovereignty, and no or low interest rates.

Only by adhering to the present "Peace Constitution," upholding its "Three anti-nuclear principles" and abolishing the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, which clearly violates the spirit of the Constitution, can Japan show the world that it is only interested in being a peaceful big nation, says Shishido.

The author sees Japan's security as being maintained by a militia of ordinary people who themselves engage in guerilla warfare at times of crisis. He does not support those who say revolution is the only way to stop imperialism and militarization brought on by monopolistic capitalism. A quotation from the 1970 Asian Ecumenical Conference for Development closes the book: "Development means primarily the liberation of mankind." To serve this purpose should be the choice of Japan so as to be a peaceful big nation.

Journalist Shishido introduces and closes his comprehensive analysis of contemporary history with references to the Confession of War Responsibility of the Kyodan. "Ever since the Confession of War Responsibility was published in the name of the late Moderator Masahisa Suzuki, it has not ceased to be a topic of discussion within the Kyodan. Many criticize this, saying, 'It is too late to talk about war guilt.' However, the Confession was made at the very moment when the 'resurgence of Japanese militarism' was becoming an actuality. It is indeed a timely and prophetic insight."

(copies of the entire review are available on request.)

Resolution being sent to the
UN Commission on Human Rights
by the Committee to Protest
the Human Rights of Foreigners
Osaka, Japan. March 1971.

RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN JAPAN AND TO PREVENT APPROVAL
OF EMIGRATION - IMMIGRATION CONTROL BILL

The government of Japan intends to present once again a bill on the Control of Emigration and Immigration to the present 65th National Diet (1970-71), and is already proceeding towards its approval. The government had introduced this bill once before, at the 61st Diet (1968-69), explaining that the bill undertook the simplification and rationalization of administrative procedures regarding exit from and entry to the country of foreigners, and the deportation of undesirables among them.

However, in review of the bill, it was found that the content, differing greatly from the government's explanation, is in fact partly aimed at the strengthening of the control and suppression of foreigners resident in Japan. Thus we have expressed, from the beginning, an attitude of opposition to this bill. In addition, in each area of the national scene, from conscientious individuals and groups, as well as from neighbouring related nations, the injustices of this bill were pointed out, with a resultant increase in opposition and protest. The government, unable to disregard the extensive internal and external reactions to the bill, nationally and internationally, withdrew the draft in the final period of the same 61st Diet, while preparing various amendments. For various reasons, they were unable to present the bill during the 63rd Diet (1969-70) as well.

At the present moment, regarding the government's stated intention of bringing the bill before the Diet now in session, we protest strongly, passionately, for the following reasons:

1. Limits may be applied to the actions of any foreigners resident in Japan. This is the earlier bill's section, "Matters To Abide By", rewritten very pointedly, especially in the area of political activities. It would prohibit meetings, speaking, or pamphleteering in opposition to a policy decided on by any national agency (a term open to the widest interpretation, including local government agencies as well). This clause would be applicable to all foreign residents in Japan, including permanent residents here since the period of the Second World War, and clearly violates basic rights of freedom of expression.
2. Those persons who have become destitute, those who are mentally or otherwise handicapped, and any person whose livelihood has become a burden to any public body are liable to compulsory deportation. Thus, a foreigner long resident in Japan, with his livelihood base in Japan alone, when he becomes poor and dependent due to health or age, may be sent out of the country.
3. With regard to the legal rights of foreigners charged under this bill, they may initiate legal action and seek court proceedings. However, the pattern is here simplified from four steps to three; the Permission for Special Residence, formerly issued by the decision of the Minister of Justice, is here abolished; and the means of legal redress are further weakened. And what is more, the local administrator, depending on the situation, can hold a suspect without a warrant for his arrest, and can refuse permission to meet with legal counsel or family members.

4. Out of consideration for national interests, international relations, etc., it is possible for a deportee to be sent to a country not of his choice.
5. The administrative official is empowered to question a suspect or related persons (Japanese included), and to search personal effects without a warrant.

Thus, this bill could be used as a repressive measure maintained in the name of public peace and order within Japan. The bill is clearly unjust, threatening the basic human rights and dignity which are the property of all men, and greatly contradicting both the spirit of the Japanese National Constitution and the statement of the International Declaration on Human Rights that "no peoples should be discriminated against because of race, faith, sex, or physique".

Moreover, we must pay special attention to the great effects which this bill has upon the 610,000 foreigners of Korean nationality and/or blood. Looking back upon the history of modern Japan, Japan, setting out to close the political, economic, cultural gap with Western countries, reached out to Asian countries, beginning with Korea, and, by making them colonies, obtained the necessary food-stuffs, economic and labour strength. In Korea, Japan, for her own progress and development, took over the national resources, the production, the land, the language of the people. Then, while all the residents of that land were even being designated as Japanese citizens, a rule based on strong racial prejudice was established. In addition, Japan, calling the people of Korea 'Japanese', conscripted many into the military and labour forces for the execution of the War, and even forcefully brought many to Japan proper.

In August, 1945, after Japan lost the war, of more than 2,100,000 Koreans in Japan, some 650,000 chose to stay. Although they were still called Japanese, they were without any rights of political participation. But then, in a flash, with the signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty in April, 1952, these 'Japanese' were suddenly designated 'foreigners', with no regard for their own wishes. Since then, they have been consistently placed in a position devoid of basic human rights and under racial prejudice.

A leading member of the Japanese Immigration Office administration stated recently: "Speaking from principles of international law, whether a so-called 'foreigner' is eaten boiled or broiled is entirely a matter of our own (national government) free will".

Another stated: "The Japanese government hopes that more and more Koreans living in Japan will return to Korea. In other words, it is already 23 years since the war ended; there is no need for Koreans to be in Japan."

In such statements, the Japanese government indicates no concern, nor any attempt at all to understand why the Koreans are resident in Japan, or what heavy burdens they bear living here. Not only that, but they think simply of banishing as many Koreans, South or North, as possible.

Today, in such questionable fashion, they are attempting to have this Emigration - Immigration Control Bill established as law. If this should become law, these Koreans, South and North, will be put in a position of increasingly severe discrimination and oppression, facing rigorous, insecure living, and even losing the livelihood base built up with blood, sweat, and tears over the past few decades. This, to the persons directly involved, is a crucial matter involving a question of life itself. The Emigration-Immigration Control Bill which the government is seeking to present reveals an intent to further extend the injury of those people who have already made sacrifices because of Japan's actions. Once again, Japan is on the way to discriminating against and trampling underfoot her Asian neighbours.

We make appeal that the Japanese government, honouring the Japanese Constitution and the spirit of the International Declaration on Human Rights, and bearing the responsibility for mistakes made up until now towards Asian countries, beginning with Korea, make greater efforts towards reconciliation and thereby renounce its decision to establish this Emigration-Immigration Control Bill as law.

Through the discussion of the problems above, we appeal to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and to international opinion, seeking the establishment of basic human rights for all peoples of the world, the abolition of racial discrimination, and the realization of justice. With regard to the consciousness and realities of racial discrimination which occur within ourselves, and right around us, we commit ourselves to fight this without turning aside, and call upon the people of Japan and the world to join in this struggle.

Committee to Protect
Human Rights of Foreigners,
Osaka, Japan

The Rev. Katsuo Seno, Chairman
Higashi Umeda Church
40 - 4 Kamiyama-cho, Kita-Ku
Osaka, Japan

